MATWATCH

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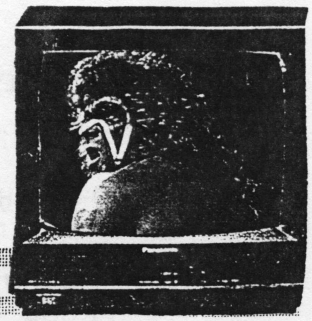

VOL. 3, NO. 8 AUG. 20-26, 1990

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

"TAG TEAM" SHELVED AS ABC SERIES

HOLLYWOOD----The HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, in its Aug. 16 edition, has reported ABC is shelving the Roddy Piper-Jesse Ventura TAG TEAM action-adventure hour as a midseason series.

The REPORTER quotes an ABC spokesman as saying "the network and producers Disney and IndieProd have 'mutually decided to delay production.'"

Producers of TAG TEAM are denying the report. The series had been slated as one of the top ABC backup hours, possibly for Saturday night.

A spokeswoman for Disney and TAG TEAM executive producer Bruce Sallan said studio executives and Sallan declined to comment.

MATWATCH West Coast correspondent Chris Crosby had learned from a TAG TEAM crew member late in the week ending Aug. 12 of a possible scuttling of TAG TEAM and Crosby told MATWATCH if the report was true, it would likely hit the trade papers within five days.

NO DISCIPLINARY ACTION PLANNED IN WPIX SNAFU

ATLANTA----Production problems which resulted in a pre-emption of NWA wrestling on superstation WPIX in New York Aug. 11 will result in no disciplinary action.

The program, which was to feature several tailored-for-New York segments, was too late in arriving at WPIX to be programmed into a computerized switcher.

"We had shipped the show out prematurely without putting in the correct inserts," said NWA executive vice president Jim Herd. "We then waged time against a computer switcher and simply didn't get it to the station on time."

Herd continued: "It's our error---and fate happened." Herd told MATWATCH last Thursday, "A few words have been said about the situation," but no action will be taken against NWA production personnel.

(Continued on Page 2)

Was It a Fluke?

A 4.1 RATING: JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS

It happens about once a year now. Sometimes you can explain it, sometimes you can't. But when an episode of a weekly wrestling series tops a 4 rating on cable in 1990, it bears closer examination.

On Page 6's RATINGS RAP, you'll see the ratings for the USA Network's WWF PRIME TIME WRESTLING has come back down to earth after its recordbreaking 4.1 mark the evening of Aug. 6. After those numbers reached MATWATCH homes, we had several inquiries for our theories as to why PTW, which has led the cable ratings the past eight weeks, as it did almost all of last summer, suddenly exploded to its highest audience level since USA reached the 30-million homes level (some old editions of PTW and the old TNT show topped 4 ratings when the cable network's universe was much smaller).

Was it the buildup for SUMMER SLAM? A mild possibility---but the only element on the Aug. 6 episode, other than the Gene Okerlund updates and stock interviews, relating to the single match people are being drawn to SS for was the Hulk Hogan-Earthquake angle from SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT nine nights earlier.

Was it the Demolition-Rockers main event on PTW? It was a much stronger effort than the recent topliners, such as Rick Martel-Jim Brunzell. But it, too, had aired on SNME just a week and two days earlier and past SNME matches airing on PRIME TIME have only hyped the rating an average of two-tenths of a point. Besides, this past week's show, which featured the Ultimate Warrior-Rick Rude feature from SNME, saw the audience fall 27% from the record week.

Two explanations are more likely for the 4.1: 1) cable sampling, in general, is highest during the month of August when the broadcast networks are deep into second and third reruns of regular series and movies. Last year, PRIME TIME jumped to a 3.4 average during August alone; and 2) on one given week, enough WWF viewers who watch PRIME TIME on various weeks all coincidentally came together before their sets on the same week. It's much like the minister who sees 200 in his congregation one week and 300 the next and knows not all of them are repeat churchgoers. He often says, "If we could only get them all in there in the same week...."

It is true that enough of that SNME was aired (and it had been promoted heavily the week before on PTW) that with the NBC edition only drawing an 8.4 (low for an SNME), the matches were fresh to enough viewers to draw CLASH-like numbers.

The only explanation I have for Warrior-Rude not drawing equivalent ratings last week is in the competiton from ABC's first NFL Monday night football game. While preseason games draw only about 40 percent of the ratings of regular season outings, enough of the male demographic which, despite some theories to the contrary, overlaps into pro wrestling, is drawn away from the WWF's cable fare. Plus, with last Monday's game being a Giants-Bills matchup, the exhibition game likely drew heavily from the WWF's usual rich New England audience.

That trend will probably continue downward, if past years hold true. By the time the NFL regular season sets in, PTW will probably drop back to the 2.4-2.7 level when more males are focused on field goals than pinfalls.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES
(Continued from Page 1)

NEW UWF CALLS PRESS CONFAB

NEW YORK---Organizers of the new California-based Universal Wrestling Federation are expected to announce a start date at a news conference here Sunday night.

Called for 6:30 p.m. during the John Arezzi-organized FANS FANTASY WEEKEND, UWF chief Herb Abrams plans to officially announce the signing of Danny Spivey, former NWA Skyscraper.

Published reports of Terry Funk and Ricky Steamboat signing with the group appear to be premature.

SPORTS CHANNEL AMERICA officials have confirmed signing a TV deal with the UWF and Abrams is expected to announce dates at the news conference.

JOHN TATUM JAILED; MISSES MEMPHIS DATE

MEMPHIS---Wrestler Hollywood John Tatum has been jailed for an alleged violation of probation terms for a past sentence in Texas.

Tatum, scheduled to appear in a six-man main event cage match at Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum Aug. 13, was replaced by Doug Gilbert.

No details on how long Tatum will remain behind bars were available at deadline.

GILBERT WEIGHS MEMPHIS SITUATION

LEXINGTON TN---Eddie Gilbert, in the midst of critical career decisions, is weighing the possibility of a long-term commitment to the Memphis/USWA promotion.

Reports have Memphis booker Jerry Lawler offering Gilbert an opportunity to run several mid-South towns, including Paducah KY, within close driving distance of Gilbert's home in west Tennessee.

Gilbert, considered a likely winner of the USWA heavyweight title in an upcoming tournament, is expected to make his decision in the next two weeks.

MATWATCH NEWSLINE

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Leave all news notes and other pertinent information on the machine after the jingle.

YOU SAID IT!!!

I'm originally from Memphis and went to the same high school with (Jerry) Lawler. His wrestling may (with his age) not continue to improve but if you make many trips to the studio over on Union Ave. (WMC), you'll surely see some of its best interviews of all time. He is so fluid in his delivery and can ad lib on any subject in wrestling. Just watch him and watch out.

NOWLIN WESTBROOK
HOUSTON TX

I've recently read both in your newsletter and in some others about how great the WWF's recent video tribute to Hulk Hogan was. And, I agree, it was an excellent series of clips. However, am I the only person who was bothered by the fact that a video compilation of which more than half consisted of the Earthquake's "vicious" attack on Hogan, almost "ending his career," was labeled by the WWF a "tribute?" A tribute to who? The Earthquake.

ROBERT L. GARRISON
RAYTOWN MO

(FSB: Robert, there's certainly merit in that view because if you interpreted the pictures literally, that could have been the message. However, I think it must be kept in context that, at the time, Titan was wanting to send a dual message, particularly to younger viewers, that while Hogan is the all-time star of the WWF, his career may well have been "over," so the "tribute" played a bit sordid.)

We've all been quick to criticize Ole Anderson when he makes a bad move, so I think it's only fair to congratulate him when he comes up with a great show like BASH '90. Who would have ever thought that both members of the blade Runners would end up being world champions? I hate to complain about anything since the show was so good, but didn't Rotundo-Sheik remind you a little of Tommy Rich-Cuban Assassin from HALLOWEEN HAVOC?

SAM NORD
WALNUT CREEK CA

Why doesn't the NWA try to sign Jesse Ventura, now that he's leaving Vince? If they're not going to steal away any top-name wrestling talent, surely putting Jesse on Saturday nights on TBS with Jim Ross would be a major coup.

CARL THOMPSON
CARMEL CA

(FSB: I'm certain a number of organizations have sent feelers out to Ventura's agent but I'm willing to predict, now that TAG TEAM---see Page 1---has been apparently shelved, if Jesse returns to wrestling commentary, it will be back with McMahon. Nothing is forever in any wrestling organization.)

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

RINGSIDE REFLECTOR, the J.D. McKay-edited bulletin, is offering a new deal: buy 2 REFLECTORs and get a back issue free, or buy 4 REFLECTORs and get the fifth free. Price: $2 per issue from RT. 2, BOX 291, LOUISVILLE MS 39339.

WRESTLING CHATTERBOX, a new bulletin from Georgiann Makropoulos, is available from 23-44-30 DRIVE, LONG ISLAND CY, NY 11102. Price: $2 per issue.

TEXAS ROUNDUP is a new results-oriented bulletin with card notes from the Houston and Dallas regions. Price: $1.25 per issue. Order from: TEXAS ROUNDUP, P.O. BOX 75053-2306, GRAND PRAIRIE TX (no zip offered).

TV TEMPO - Aug. 13-19

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Jake Roberts d. Bob Bradley; Demolition d. Ronnie Garvin/Mike Williams; Nikoli Volkoff d. Tom Stone; Power & Glory d. Scott Colton/Ricky Rice; Barbarian d. Warren Bianchi; Bushwackers d. Mike Sharpe/Pez Whatley; VIDEO: Sgt. Slaughter. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: Hart Foundation d. Al Burke/Tom Stone; UPDATE: Kerry Von Erich-Curt Hennig; Randy Savage d. Jim Evans & Sherri beats Evans with blowup Macho King; SEGMENT: Sapphire gets $28,000 Cadillac; VIDEO: Sgt. Slaughter says he'll present "Great American" award to BRO. LUV; Rockers d. Tom Bennett/Black Bart; BRO. LUV: Earthquake w. Bravo/Hart; (From CHALLENGE) Bad News Brown pulls out sewer rat; Brown d. Jim Powers; Tugboat d. Bradley by DQ when Dino Bravo runs in but as Tug bearhugs Dino, 'Quake saves & aftershocks Tug until Bossman saves w. nightstick but Tug stretchers. DRAW.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Chris Walker d. Bill Ford; Randy Rose d. Bret Holliday; (From NAWA) Bob Orton Jr. d. William Ford; CLASSIC: "Looking for a Hero" video; GA. TV TITLE: Steve Lawler d. Dino Minelli; (INTL Match) Biff Wellington d. Johnny Smith; GA. TAG TEAM TITLE: Billy Black/Mr. Wrestling d. Hillbillies for belts; ANGLE: Tim Dix is fired by Black, Mr. W. and Lawler & Lawler kicks the stew out of him. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Rock & Roll Express d. Midnight Express; DOOM d. Terrence Blalock/Scott Williams; Stan Hansen d. Joe Defuria; Hector Guererro d. Mark Kyle; Ric Flair/Arn Anderson/Sid Vicious d. Tim Parker/Bart Batten/Bob Holly but Dudes w. Attitudes save & El Gigante throws Arn off; Sting d. Chris Sullivan. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[NWA PRO]: Brian Pillman d. Mike Thor; Big Van Vader d. Pat Rose; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Sting & Flair; (S. TAG TEAM TITLE FINALS) Freebirds d. Southern Boys when Gen. Bud E. Lee Roberts interferes but Bob Armstrong makes save and breaks trophy; DOOM d. New Fantastics but R&R Ex save; Junkyard Dog/Paul Orndorff d. State Patrol but Horsemen/Gigante have standoff after. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[MAIN EVENT]: Steiners d. Brian Carr/Dave Johnson; (CLIPS) S. tag title series; DANGER ZONE: Paul E. choked by Lex Luger after Paul's insults; Bam Bam Bigelow d. Defuria; New Fantastics d. Chuck Coats/Smasher Stone; R&R Ex d. Krusher Knopf/Death Row; Barry Windham d. Brad Armstrong. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: (ANGLE) Percy Pringle "fired" as commentator & replaced by Joe Pedicino; B.J. Travis d. Terrence Garvin; Brickhouse Brown d. Dog of War; ANYTHING GOES: Chris Adams (in karate gear) d. Steve Austin (football gear) by DQ when Percy runs in, Chris Von Erich saves & brawl erupts; Gary Young/Sweet Daddy Falcone d. Jerry Lawler/Jeff Jarrett by DQ when Lawler caught w. chain after heels use whips during ref bump. Lawler piledrives ref. DRAW-PLUS.
[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Joey Maggs/Rex King d. Twilight Zone; Snowman d. Jeff Gaylord by DQ when Brian Lee runs in; Dirty White Boys d. Tim Hall/Ken Raper; Bill Dundee d. Eddie Gilbert by DQ when DWBs run in; Lee/Don Harris d. Freezer Thompson/T.D. Steel. POWERSLAM.

(LPWA) - Linda Street d. Lelani Kai; Heidi Lee Morgan d. The Goddess; Bad, Black & Beautiful d. Locomotion. RESTHOLD.

(ICW) - Frank Angel d. Chris Michaels; Wild Bunch d. Southern Jet/Destroyer; Roadblock d. Mike Fortune; Equalizers d. Joe Cruel/Ed Watts; Undertakers d. G.Q. Madison/Mike Phillips. BOMB.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Avg. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale.

(CNWA) - Jason Anderson d. Don McClure; Jerry Morrow d. Ballplayer; Len St. Clair d. Jim Jordan; Bill Jodoin/Ron Ritchie d. Bowlers by DQ; Sumohara d. Johnny Smith. RESTHOLD.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Leono/Tigro/Pendro d. Danny Boy/Lasser/Robin Hood 2-3 falls; El Dandy/Astro de Oro/Anibal d. Herodes/Ulises/El Gran Markus Jr. 2-3; MSI/Masakre/Emilio Charles Jr. d. Ringo Mendoza/Lizmark/Atlantis 2-3; (HAIR MATCH) Scorpio d. Cachorro Mendoza 2-3. After, Ringo challenges Scorpio to hair match; (CLIPS) Verduco d. Leon Kirilenko in hair match; El Mestizo d. Taura Jr.; (NWA LT. HWT. TITLE) Pierroth Jr. draw vs. El Faraon via double countout in 3rd fall; (HAIR VS. HAIR) Javier Llanes d. Remo Bando. POWERSLAM.

(AWA/ESPN) - D.J. Peterson d. Tom Stone; Destruction Crew d. Steve Butler/Tom Gossett; Tommy Jammer d. W.T. Jones; Larry Zbyszko d. Todd Becker; (CLIP) Candi Divine d. Magnificent Mimi by DQ; Tokyo Bullets d. Texas Hangmen in double pin ending when ref Gary DeRusha rules Joey legally pinned Psycho; Nikita Koloff d. Mike George. BOMB.

(IWA) - Dean Malenko d. Ricky Rice; Preston Steele d. Bounty Hunter; Tommy Rogers d. Jim Backlund; Peggy Lee Leathers d. Bambi w. help of Nasty Ronnie; Kevin Von Erich d. Larry Cameron by DQ when Jules Strongbow runs in to save Larry from body scisccors. Moondog Spot saves Kevin. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CHI CHAMPIONSHIP) - (MIDWEST TAG TITLE) Tony DeVito/Mike Sampson d. Reynolds Bros. for belts; Johnny Ford d. Terry Scholl when Zebra Kid interferes. BOMB-PLUS.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: 'Wackers d. Dale Wolfe/Bill Garlets; Power & Glory d. Colton/Rice; Barbarian d. Bianchi; Rockers d. Bennett/Bart; VIDEO: Slaughter; (CHALLENGE) Bad News & sewer rat; (From SNME) Ultimate Warrior d. Rick Rude by countout & pummels Heenan out of ring; Brown d. Powers; BRO. LUV: Warrior; Harts d. Burke/Stone; Hennig d. Randy Fox but Von Erich challenges for I-C title; Von Erich d. Brooklyn Brawler. DRAW. [NOTE: SS FEVER results in next issue.]

(SOUTHEASTERN) - Another repeat show. J.C. Carson updates Aug. 10 Athens TN show in which Assassin/Killer Kyle win S.E. tag team title & Moondog Max turns face after being jumped by Larry Santana & the Superstar. DOUBLE BOMB.

(USWA/WMC) - Lee/Harris d. Steel/Raper; (From MID-SOUTH) Lee/Harris doubleteam Jeff Jarrett twice & piledrive him to bloody pulp on chair; ANGLE: Downtown Bruno says he's fired Scott Braddock & gripes how Gaylord has lost too often. Gaylord rages & tosses Bruno behind desk; Gaylord d. Don Kelly by DQ when Lee/Harris attack, piledrive Gaylord w. chair & Bruno slaps Jeff; (MID-SOUTH) Dirty White Girl vs. Tessa in cage match. WMC digitizes video of underwear; Doug Gilbert/Tony Anthony d. Thompson/Keith Haynes; ANGLE: DWG/Tessa go at each other & Dundee, Anthony separate; (MID-SOUTH) CAGE: Eddie & Doug Gilbert/Anthony d. Lawler/Austin Idol/Dundee when Sam Lowe passes Eddie steel case; (FLASHBACK) Lawler-Idol 1987 cage match (Lawler's head shaved);

ANGLE: Eddie brings out John L. Gilliam, who says Lawler will feel "bald-headed" after Monday night, so Eddie lets John feel it himself by shaving Gilliam's head while Lowe/Doug/Anthony hold John in chair; (6-MAN): Maggs/King/Ken Wayne d. Twilight Zone/Eddie Sweat; ANGLE: As Lawler/Dundee about to face Brickhouse & Fine, Eddie's gang attacks Jerry & Bill. POWERSLAM....hot angles.

(PORTLAND) - *(PACIFIC NW TITLE) Scott Norton d. Grappler by DQ; S. Rockers d. Al Madril/Ricky Santana 2-3 falls; Jonathan Holliday d. Spoiler; Larry Oliver d. Equalizer by DQ; (FIESTA GARDEN) Santana demands Steve Doll tell what happened at "Billy Bob's." Doll says a drunk Tailor-Made Medina came onto him & Steve told her to "get lost." But Santana/Tailor say Medina rejected Doll's proposal after Ricky "beat Doll for the Texas title." RESTHOLD-PLUS.*

(NWA/TBS) - [WCW]: S. Boys d. Ford Bros.; (WRAPUP) S. Boys-Freebirds series; Blalock d. Hansen by DQ; Vicious d. Brian Carr; Luger d. Kyle; Scott Steiner d. Dutch Mantel; Pillman/Tom Zenk d. M Ex by DQ when Vicious runs in but Sid also decks Stan Lane & Corny & seg ends w. Sid & Eaton battling; Jackie Fulton d. Holly; Ivan Koloff d. Williams; Vader d. Rose; Luger d. Eddie Martin; Vicious d. Horowitz. DRAW.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Theodore R. Long, WWW: "They say people in Jackson TN like rock & roll. Well, people in hell also love ice water." 2. Michael St. John, WMC, on DWG/Tessa stripping each other: "I wonder if any of this is legal in the state of Tennessee." 3. Sean Mooney/Alfred Hayes, PTW: (SM) "You can do the Bush-wacker Bounce, Alfred, just don't lick my head. (AH) "I wouldn't want to---with all that Brylcreem you use." 4. Mick Karch, IWA: "Ivan Koloff could go to your local supermarket, climb in with the chopped beef steak and you couldn't pick him out." 5. Percy Pringle/Joe Pedicino, USWA: (PP) "Are you Ronnie Gossett's brother?" (JP) "No. Are you Sara Pringle's sister?" 6. Jim Ross, NWE: "The Freebirds say they won the Southern tag team championship in Tupelo MS. That's as likely as George Steinbrenner being named commissioner of baseball." 7. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "When it comes to predictions, I AM Mr. Perfect." 8. Bad News Brown, PTW, to Gene Okerlund: "I know you from Apple Pie U. You ain't never seen no mutant rat." 9. Karch, IWA, on David Sammartino: "The apple did not fall from the tree." 10. Steve Doll, PORTLAND, on Tailor-Made Medina: "I don't like women who smoke, drink or chew."

11. Ricky Santana, PORT.: "Madril's trying to rip Doll's eye out---nothing personal." 12. Missy Hyatt, NWE, to Jim Ross: "I couldn't play that Freebirds album for you, Jim. You listen to that elevator stuff." 13. Ma DeVito, CCW, to Tony: "You play Ave Maria so beautiful you make your Aunt Rose cry." 14. Santana, PORT.: "I won the battle of Texas and I won the battle of the sexes." 15. Dutch Mantel, WWW: "I wish Hector Guererro would put me in a roll. I'd knock him into Nicaragua." 16. Jimmy Garvin, NWA PRO: "Lance, Vader's mask looks like one of your old girl friends." 17. Scott Steiner, NWA PRO: "Mean Mark comes out with red hair. Kinda reminds me of Opie Taylor." 18. Dave Brown, WMC, on digitized video of Tessa/DWG: "There is nothing wrong with your set. Just modesty, I guess." 19. Tessa, WMC: "Dirty White Girl, after Monday night, you'll have to get a job at Krystal or McDonald's. No, they wouldn't hire you because everybody would lose their appetites." 20. Pedicino, USWA, on sitting where T. Garvin used to do color: "Maybe I should check this chair." 21. Craig Johnson, USWA, on Sportatorium: "The Fenway Park of wrestling." 22. Ross, WCW: "Wrestling Stan Hansen is like being in a pup tent with a grizzly bear." 23. Ross, WCW: "Oil Trough is so far back in East Texas, they have to pipe in sunshine."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Paul E. Dangerously, NWE, to Lex Luger: "You WERE the baddest mother that ever went through the NWA." 2. Ric Flair, DANGER ZONE: "You're Sting. You're the world champion. I'm Ric Flair. I'm history. I don't like that." 3. Long/Lance Russell, NWA PRO: (TL) "All them people in Jackson TN look on you as a role model, Lance Russell. Well, here is a list of all the womens you have left behind with chil-ren and haven't taken care of." (LR) "Get out of here with that stuff, Teddy." 4. Eddie Gilbert, WMC: "Austin Idol would do anything for a payoff."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Mantel, WWW: "Are you calling me a liar, Tony?" 2. Pedicino, USWA: "Is a fire hydrant a fair comparison of The Dog of War?" 3. Ventura, WWF: "What's Sapphire doing? Bulking up for Sherri?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE L. RON HUBBARD OF WRESTLING (Ross on Jimmy Garvin). 2. THE STINKER (Sid Vicious on Sting). 3. FATHER TIME (Michael Hayes on Bob Armstrong). 4. SUGAR RAY LOWE (Eddie Gilbert on Sam Lowe).

BEST PICTURES - 1. WMC, John Gilliam's face as Eddie Gilbert shaves his head. 2. IWA, Joel Goodhart dodging Ivan Koloff's chain. 3. WWW, Hector Guerrero's fly over top. 4. WWW, Arn Anderson eyeing El Gigante. 5. WMC, Downtown Bruno sprayed by Bundy's silly string. 6. USWA, Percy Pringle trying to elbow Joe Pedicino. 7. USWA, Steve Austin crash into floor. 8. USWA, Austin crashing into post w. helmet.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Terry Taylor, IWA: "What's good for the goose is good for the gander." 2. Mantel, WWW: "...only time will tell." 3. Flair, DANGER ZONE: "...whether you like it or don't like it, learn to love it." 4. Jarrett, WMC: "...fight fire with fire."

BLOOPER AWARD - 1. Michael Hayes, NWA PRO: "...let's get down to brass TACTICS." 2. WCW, Corny interview runs twice.

BOO AWARD - USWA/WMC, for flagrant use of chair by Brian Lee/Don Harris.

TUBE TALK

Tugboat & Bossman both absent from WWF taping Wednesday. ...Next week's MATWATCH will be mailed Tuesday in order to get SUMMER SLAM results in....CNN ran feature Friday on Japan's UWF and explored the real/fake question...Monday at Mid-South, three cage matches: 1. Lawler/Dundee/Idol vs. Gilberts/Anthony (hair match); 2. DWG vs. Tessa (loser no longer a valet); 3. Sam Lowe vs. Eddie Marlin (boxing match).

WMC tastefully digitized DWG/Tessa from previous week's Mid-South....NWA runs Jackson TN Sept. 7 with DOOM-R&R Ex & JYD-Arn on top....Production values still weak on IWA but Mick Karch is a quality play-by-play man...Eddie shaved Gilliam's hair so close, he can thump John on the head to wake him on road, rather than behind the ear...Chris Adams-Steve Austin has to be a BEST BRAWL candidate....Danny Wolf working with Allen Funt on CANDID CAMERA wrestling stunt.

ONLY ON VACATION: Contrary to some reports, Ron Simmons was merely on vacation the week he was off and replaced by Ivan Koloff in tag matches vs. the Rock & Roll Express. As for Uncle Ivan, Jim Herd told me Thursday he has "zero" committment to Koloff, who is not skedded for future shows.

AGE BEFORE???: Herd further said: "I'm not happy with any of the old guys. It's not that I don't love them all as people. I do. But this is a business where we have to move onward and upward and that point is being driven home here."

MEADOWLANDS FORECAST: Herd also predicts a crowd of about 7,000 in New Jersey Friday night. "It'll be about 2,300 less than our last show, for a variety of reasons. Road Warrior Hawk didn't pass his drug (steroid) test and (Ricky) Morton wasn't there and you can't no-show major venues w. smart, loyal wrestling fans like they are there," said Herd.

FINALLY ON OLE: Herd's comment Thursday...."I think Ole's valuable, no matter what everybody else thinks. He's a bright guy. It's just that most people in life only know from their past examples but he's moving in the right direction and we're very happy with things."

TORNADO TITLE?: Lots of speculation that Kerry Von Erich will win the Intercontinental belt Monday night but that can be another WWF decoy.

MORE SUBS: Rick Martel's arm injury which will keep him off SUMMER SLAM will likely see The Warlord take his place but as of deadline, that wasn't official.

MEMPHIS MATTERS: Doug Gilbert replaced John Tatum in the six-man cage match in Memphis Monday night. Doug, Eddie & Tony Anthony beat Jerry Lawler/Austin Idol/Bill Dundee when Sam Lowe passed a metal case to Eddie through a cage door & Lawler was decked to lose the fall.

OXYGEN TIME: About 2,700 turned out at the Mid-South Coliseum. Lowe lost to Eddie Marlin by DQ but beforehand, Eddie Gilbert brought out an oxygen tank, telling Marlin: "After 5 minutes with Sam, you're gonna need this."

SAY WHAT?: But in another confusing Memphis angle, Reggie B. Fine & Brickhouse Brown beat Rex King & Joey Maggs only three weeks after Brick was shown being turned on by Fine & Sweet Daddy Falcone in a USWA/Dallas match on TV, seen at 8 a.m. Saturday morning in Memphis.

A LONG OUT: Sweet Daddy Falcone has a probably six-to-12 month recovery from knee damage suffered in the tag match shown on USWA's syndicated show Saturday. Tough break for a guy I enjoyed meeting in Jackson recently.

RETURN TO SENDER: Atlanta investment broker Carter Berkeley, who once tried to buy the old Continental group from Ron Fuller, is planning to restart a CWF. He's told sources he plans to run Dothan, Montgomery, Birmingham and Huntsville in Alabama and Columbus, Ga. Berkeley, however, only reportedly has $25,000 in financing.

ACE IN THE HOLE: Johnny Ace has reportedly signed a three-year deal with All-Japan at a reported $100,000-a-year.

MATWATCHING

TWPW ON PAPER: SPORTS CHANNEL AMERICA has been proposed a THIS WEEK IN PRO WRESTLING half-hour similar to the old PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK. Talks reportedly will take place about its possibilities at John Arezzi's FANS FANTASY WEEKEND convention in New York.

IS IT KEIRN?: The great guessing game on The Black Scorpion grows even greater. Latest speculation is Steve Keirn is a possibility (before I even asked Herd, he said: "...and I'm NOT telling you who the Black Scorpion is. HA HA HA!" Scratch Terry Taylor as one unless some false booking sheets are being distributed. Taylor is booked in other towns than The Scorpion in September.

CALGARY CRUISER: Chris Cruise & Terry Funk have a meeting with the Calgary Hart family early next month with the prospect of reviving Stampede for a syndicated network.

SPOTLIGHT MOVES: John Arezzi's PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT is moving to WBAB-AM in Long Island, effective Sept. 2. The station signal will reach all of L.I. and into Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Atlantic City. The show will now air from 10 a.m. to noon on Sundays. First guest in the new slot: Paul E. Dangerously. Scheduled Sept. 9: Dave Meltzer & yours truly.

MORE PROMOTION: Arezzi will be doing drive time promos for SPOTLIGHT on Fridays on WBAB. He'll also be able to take a bank of eight callers at once.

HOME VIDEOS?: Ted Allen has given notice to WAWA-TV in Rome, Ga., he can't afford the $375-a-week for time on the station for his PEACH STATE WRESTLING. Allen's last taping was reportedly done with a home VHS camera connected to a 3/4" recorder with horrible lighting.

STILL MORE: The battle of small Georgia independents continues. The Milledgeville-based GEORGIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING (top star: Ray Candy) has bought an hour on the Rome station Saturdays at 3. Joe Pedicino's PRO WRESTLING '90 now airs on WAWA before the NWA Saturdays at 9 a.m.

EXPANDING MORE?: Jerry Jarrett is making noises of expanding USWA into Florida, where he lives most of the year. He reportedly could easily get into seven television markets in the Sunshine State.

WHO'S THAT, YOU SAY?: Herb Abrams is claiming Superstar Billy Graham as a color commentator for his new UWF promotion but Graham has told friends in the industry he hasn't heard form Abrams since May.

FANS FANTASIES: That FANS FANTASY WEEKEND some of you may be attending in New York has received a full-page story in the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS (last Friday) and the Meadowlands portion of the event sold out as of last Thursday.

MARYLAND MOTION: Atlantic States Wrestling ran a card in Odenton MD before 400 Aug. 10. Axel Rotten, a coming local heel, won a battle royal city street fight, drawing hard blood after being cut with a title belt. The Cream Team beat the Chicago Hit Men and A.J. Fritzoid retained his Atlantic States title over Rotten.

RATINGS RAP

PRIME TIME BACK TO EARTH

BUT STILL WINS WEEK

One week after its recordbreaking 4.1 rating, PRIME TIME WRESTLING fell 27% in audience but still managed to carve out a victory in the Nielsen cable race for the weekend ending Aug. 13.

PRIME TIME's 3.0 rating came with a replay of the Ultimate Warrior-Rick Rude match from SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT as topliner.

The PTW numbers topped WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING and NWA MAIN EVENT, both of which finished at 2.6. But the return of the NWA POWER HOUR to Friday night, on the heels of its record 3.2 rating the previous Sunday, saw its audience slice in half.

In syndication, the WWF captured the past two weeks but its the 7.8 average was one of its weakest ratings in months, for the week ending July 29.

CABLE

Week Ending Aug. 13	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 8/13)	3.0	5.0	1.61 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 8/11)	2.6	6.7	1.46 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 8/12)	2.6	6.2	1.46 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 8/12)	2.4	7.3	1.29 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 8/10)	1.6	3.0	896,000
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 8/11)	0.5	5.0	280,000

SYNDICATION

Wk Ending July 29	Rtng/Stns	Wk Ending Aug. 5	Rtg/Stns
WWF	7.8/251	WWF	8.9/252
NWA	6.8/172	NWA	6.4/172

THE VIDEO STORE

HULK HOGAN'S HIGHLIGHTS: AWA 1982-83. Time: appx. 30 min. Distributor: MNTEX Entertainment, Prior Lake MN. Retail Price: $9.95.

This tape features Hulk Hogan in the AWA from 1982-83, just before his move to the WWF. There are two matches here: a 4-on-2 tag match with Hogan and Andre the Giant vs. Bobby Heenan, Nick Bockwinkel, Ken Patera and Bobby Duncum; and Hogan's first AWA title match vs. Bockwinkel, along with vintage Gene Okerlund interviews.

The tape's real value is as wrestling history. As such, it provides an excellent look at Hogan's act just before the McMahon influence, both in the ring and as a personality. Ironically, the effect makes one appreciate Vince McMahon's abilities as a promoter all the more.

The tape is well edited and produced, despite the self-serving Eric Bishoff narration and Lee Marshall's awful over-dubbed play-by-play of the Hogan-Bockwinkel match.

For collectors and younger fans who have never seen the pre-WWF Hogan, the tape will be well worth the $9.95 price.

---Review by Sheldon Goldberg

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